

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2007

### *Hoosiers Commemorate 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week*

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – Crime victims and survivors will join with victims' advocates and allied professional service providers this month to celebrate the 27th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) from April 22-28, 2007.

This year's theme, "Every Victim. Every Time." encourages the nation to advance the rights of victims and expand the services they need to rebuild their lives. NCVRW reminds us that every victim deserves respect and compassion while recovering from the impact of the crime committed against them.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), Victim Services division will collaborate with Alternatives, Inc. in Madison County to kick off this national endeavor. A walk for victims' rights will be held at ShadySide Park in Anderson (1112 Broadway Street) on Sunday, April 22, 2007. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m. and the walk will start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

"I have great admiration for the men and women who have survived the devastation of crime," said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. "I am honored to participate in the walk and show my support and appreciation for those who serve the victims."

This year also marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Crime Victims Fund established by the *Victims of Crime Act of 1984* (VOCA), which, over the past two decades, has provided billions of dollars nationally for victim assistance programs. These programs offer a wide range of services to crime victims, and compensation that helps victims cope with the financial impact of crime. VOCA is *not* derived from taxpayers' dollars but, rather, from federal criminal fines, forfeited appearance bonds, and special assessments on Federal convictions.

ICJI's Victims Services division allocates VOCA funding to law enforcement and victim service agencies, prosecutors' offices, domestic violence shelters, CASAs and sexual assault treatment centers through an annual competitive grant cycle. Since its inception, the Victims Compensation program in Indiana has awarded more than 19 million dollars in assistance to more than 30,000 victims.

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Mike Cunegin, Executive Director

[www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji)

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Hoosiers statewide are encouraged to join together during 2007 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and honor not *only* victims of crime, but also those who serve victims on a daily basis. For additional information, and a list of special events concerning National Crime Victims' Rights Week, visit [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji).

*The Victim Services division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute is responsible for implementing programming for crime victims throughout Indiana. The Division is responsible for allocating and managing Federal dollars granted to Indiana from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).*

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